



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Department
Office of Governor Deval L. Patrick
Press Release**

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MEDIA ADVISORY: GOVERNOR PATRICK TO TAKE “LONE WALK” ON JANUARY 7

BOSTON – Tuesday, December 9, 2014 – Governor Deval Patrick will take the traditional “Lone Walk” through the Massachusetts State House for the last time as Governor of the Commonwealth on January 7, 2015. The lone walk will take place following the customary gift exchange between Governor Patrick and the Governor-elect in the Governor’s Office at 4:45 p.m. More details on press logistics will be available in the coming weeks.

WHAT: Governor Patrick takes “Lone Walk”

WHERE: Massachusetts State House

WHEN: Wednesday, January 7, 2014

Beginning at 4:45 p.m. with a gift exchange in the Governor’s Office

The “Lone Walk” dates back to Governor Benjamin Butler’s departure after finishing his term in 1884. Since that time, the traditions have evolved however, typically the Governor meets with the Governor-elect in the Governor’s office for a private meeting. Both then move to the Governor’s Council Chamber, or another area, open to the press, for an exchange of four traditional gifts:

- The Pewter Key: The ceremonial original pewter key to the Governor’s office door.
- The Butler Bible: Left by Governor Benjamin Butler to his successors in 1884, since he found no Bible in the office previously.
- The Governor’s Gavel: Made from the white oak frame of the original U.S.S. Constitution and accepted as the “permanent official gavel” of the Governor’s Council in 1906.
- Massachusetts General Statutes: Two volumes, which date back to 1860. The outgoing Governor traditionally inscribes a message to his or her successor in this text.

Following the exchange of gifts, the Governor leaves the Statehouse using the central doors which are only opened on three occasions: (1) a visit by the current President of the United States (2) a visit by a head of state and (3) for a departing governor.

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